

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In an electronic device a method for accessing an image acquisition device associated with the electronic device independently of an interface protocol of the image acquisition device, the method comprising:

receiving a request to access the image acquisition device, the request specifying a format for a response from the image acquisition device;

establishing a communication channel with a hardware interface of the image acquisition device, the communication channel operating independently of the interface protocol of the image acquisition device; and

configuring ~~physical connections~~ properties of the image acquisition device supported ~~by the hardware interface~~ independently of the interface protocol of the image acquisition device and accessing a feature of the image acquisition device using the communication channel to receive the response in the specified format.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein establishing the communication channel comprises:

communicating with an interface of the image acquisition device to establish communication therewith; and

establishing one or more communication procedures for communication with the image acquisition device, the communication procedures providing instructions on how data transfers are managed across the communication channel.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the one or more communication procedures provides instructions for at least one of, logging data to file, buffering data received from the image acquisition device, configuring selected properties associated with the image acquisition device, generating events, and translating error codes from the image acquisition device.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the request is received from a user interface.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said user interface comprises an object based interface having methods and attributes.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method performed in an electronic device for communicating with a selected image acquisition device associated with the electronic device, the method comprising:

establishing a first communication link between a user of the electronic device and an image acquisition engine, ~~physical connections of the image acquisition engine supported by a hardware interface being configured to generate a response in a user specified format~~ the first communication link operating independently of a hardware interface of the selected image acquisition device; and

establishing a second communication link between the image acquisition engine and an interface of the selected image acquisition device, the second communication link using a ~~communication channel~~ operating independently of an interface protocol of the selected image acquisition device to allow the user to communicate with the selected image acquisition device.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

associating the image acquisition engine with a driver adapted for communicating with the interface of the selected image acquisition device.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

selecting the image acquisition device from a plurality of image acquisition devices associated with the electronic device.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

abstracting a representation of the selected image acquisition device for use in establishing the second communication link by using information provided by the driver.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the interfacing comprises:

rendering on a display device of the electronic device a user interface for use by the user for interfacing with the image acquisition engine.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

triggering the image acquisition device on a selected event to acquire one or more images.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

previewing one or more images from the image acquisition device before, while, or after the triggering of the image acquisition device occurs.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

montaging one or more images acquired by the image acquisition device on a display device associated with electronic device.

18. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

identifying a region of interest for an image acquired by the image acquisition device.

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

requesting the image acquisition engine to determine an interface for the image acquisition device installed and accessible to the image acquisition engine.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

requesting the image acquisition engine to determine each interface associated with an image acquisition device installed and accessible to the image acquisition engine.

21. (original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the image acquisition engine determines each interface associated with an image acquisition installed and accessible to the image acquisition engine across one or more image acquisition device types.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
providing the image acquisition engine with one or more requests for configuring the selected image acquisition device.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:
configuring the selected image acquisition device based on each provided request.

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:
configuring a type of image acquisition based on each provided request.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein the type of image acquisition comprises still image acquisition.

26. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein the type of image acquisition comprises a plurality of images acquired in a sequence.

27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
requesting the image acquisition engine to acquire a number of images using the image acquisition device.

28. (original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the number of images comprises a single image.

29. (original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the number of images comprises a plurality of images.

30. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the image acquisition engine is capable of feeding to the user one or more live images from the selected image acquisition device.

31. (original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising defining a color space for the images acquired by the image acquisition device.

32. (currently amended) A device readable storage medium holding device executable instructions for performing a method in an electronic device for accessing an image acquisition device associated with the electronic device independently of an interface protocol of the image acquisition device, the method comprising:

accessing one of a plurality of image acquisition devices, the plurality of image acquisition devices implementing a plurality of different ~~image acquisition technologies~~ interfaces, by:

automatically determining available types of triggers supported by a particular image acquisition device;

providing information on the available types of triggers supported by the particular image acquisition device;

accepting a request to access the particular image acquisition device;

creating a communication channel with the particular image acquisition device, the communication channel operating independently of the interface protocol of the image acquisition device; and

accessing a feature of the image acquisition device using the communication channel operating independently of the interface protocol of the image acquisition device, the feature affecting a resulting image acquired from the particular image acquisition device.

33. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ device readable storage medium of Claim 32, wherein the request specifies a format for a response from the particular image acquisition device.

34. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ device readable storage medium of Claim 33, wherein creating the communication channel comprises:

communicating with an interface of the particular image acquisition device to establish communication with the particular image acquisition device; and

determining one or more communication procedures for communication with the particular image acquisition device, the communication procedures providing instructions on how data transfers are managed across the communication channel.

35. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ device readable storage medium of Claim 34, wherein the one or more communication procedures provides instructions for at least one of, logging data to file, buffering data received from the image acquisition device, configuring selected properties associated with the particular image acquisition device, generating events, and translating error codes from the image acquisition device.

36. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ device readable storage medium of Claim 32, wherein the request is received from a user interface.

37. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ device readable storage medium of Claim 36, wherein said user interface comprises an object based interface having methods and attributes.

38. (currently amended) A program holding product having instructions executable by an electronic device which, when executed by a processor of the electronic device allows a user of the electronic device to communicate with a selected image acquisition device associated with the electronic device by:

interfacing a user of the electronic device with one of a plurality of image acquisition engines, the plurality of image acquisition engines implementing a plurality of different image acquisition interfaces ~~technologies~~;

linking the image acquisition engine and an interface of the selected image acquisition device using a communication channel operating independently of an interface protocol of the selected image acquisition device to ~~allowing~~ the user to communicate with the selected image acquisition device;

automatically determining available types of triggers supported by the selected image acquisition device; and

providing information to the user on the available types of triggers supported by the selected image acquisition device.

39. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38, further comprising:

associating the image acquisition engine with a driver adapted for communicating with the interface of the selected image acquisition device.

40. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38, further comprising:

selecting the image acquisition device from a plurality of image acquisitions devices associated with the electronic device.

41. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38, further comprising:

abstracting a representation of the selected image acquisition device for use in linking the image acquisition engine and the interface of the selected image acquisition device provided by the driver.

42. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38, wherein the interfacing comprises:

rendering on a display device of the electronic device a user interface for use by the user for interfacing with the image acquisition engine.

43. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38 further comprising:

triggering the image acquisition device on a selected event to acquire one or more images.

44. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 43 further comprising:

previewing one or more images from the image acquisition device before, while, or after the triggering of the image acquisition device occurs.

45. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38 further comprising:

montaging one or more images acquired by the image acquisition device on a display device associated with electronic device.

46. (previously presented) The program product of Claim 38 further comprising:

identifying a region of interest for an image acquired by the image acquisition device.